

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01314 301651Z

73

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /088 W

----- 097940

R 301515Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4623

INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1314

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BC

SUBJ: BOTSWANA PREPARES FOR A GENERAL ELECTION

REF: GABORONE A-98

1. DURING A RECENT CONVERSATION BETWEEN EMBOFF AND BOTSWANA'S MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, E.M.K. KGABO, THE MINISTER MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD BE VERY BUSY IN THE COMING MONTHS TRAVELING AROUND THE COUNTRY EXPLAINING THE POLICIES OF THE RULING BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY (BDP) AND PREPARING THE BDP FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION. KGABO SAID HE THROUGHT PRESIDENT KHAMA WOULD MAKE THE MARCH 1974 SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THE DESSOLUTION SESSION WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION COMING IN APRIL. HE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS QUOTE BEEN DOING A LOT OF CAMPAIGNING RECENTLY UNQUOTE. KGABO ADDED THAT HE PERSONALLY FAVORED AN APRIL ELECTION.

2. KGABO WAS MOVED FROM MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LANDS TO THE NEW POSITION OF MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING IN APRIL 1973. THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT THIS STEP WAS TAKEN TO GIVE HIM MORE TIME  
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FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. KGABO IS AN OLD-TIME BDP STATESMAN

WHO IS CONSIDERED A FIRST-RATE GRASS-ROOTS POLITICIAN.  
IT IS THOUGH THAT HIS VIEWS ON BDP ISSUES AND CAMPAIGN  
STRATEGY CARRY CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT WITHIN THE PARTY'S  
COUNCILS. MCGUIRE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS MCGUIRE  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** GABORONE A-98  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BOTSWANA PREPARES FOR A GENERAL ELECTION  
**TAGS:** PINT, BC, BDP, BOTSWANA DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005